

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the above-captioned patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of ~~prompting~~ improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a computer database;
- (b) determining sensing a whether any person [[in]] entered a first area independent of whether the any person includes a sensor;
- (c) determining whether the any person has cleansed their hands before leaving the area left the first area and entered a second area
- (d) determining whether the any person washed their hands before leaving the first area;
- [[(d)] (e) if it is determined that the any person has cleansed washed their hands before leaving the first area, sending this information to the computer database;
- (e) if it is determined that the any person has not cleansed did not wash their hands before leaving the first area, determining whether the any person [[has]] washed their hands in the entered a second area;
- (f) ~~if it is determined that the person has entered the second area,~~
~~determining whether the person has cleansed their hands;~~

~~(g) — if it is determined that the person has not entered the second area, determining whether the person has cleansed their hands in a third area after leaving the first area;~~

[[~~(h)~~]] (f) if it is determined that the any person ~~has cleansed~~ washed their hands ~~after entering in~~ in the second ~~or third~~ area, sending the information to the computer database;

[[~~(i)~~]] (g) if it is determined that the any person ~~has not cleansed~~ did not wash their hands ~~after entering in~~ in the second area ~~or the third area~~, generating at least one of a warning and a reminder; and

[[~~(j)~~]] (h) if it is determined that the any person ~~has not cleansed~~ did not wash their hands after the at least one of the warning and the reminder is generated, sending the information to the computer database.

2. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of:~~

~~(k) — if it is determined that there is no need for the person to cleanse their hands, no warning is generated and sending this information to the database wherein the step of generating at least one of the warning and the reminder comprises the step of generating at least one of the warning and the reminder when after the any person enters the second area without washing their hands in the first area, a predetermined amount of time expires without the any person washing their hands in the second area.~~

3. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~step of generating~~ generates the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder ~~[[as]] comprises~~ at least one of an audio signal ~~[[or]]~~ and a visual signal.

4. (Currently Amended): A method of ~~handwashing~~ improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

~~detecting a person in a restroom;~~

~~monitoring~~ determining whether any person flushes flushed at least one of a restroom toilet and a soil room waste dispenser;

~~if it is determined that the any person has not flushed the toilet, sending the information to a central database;~~

~~if the any person flushed flushes the at least one of the restroom toilet, and the soil room waste dispenser, determining whether the any person cleanses washed their hands within a predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room dispenser within a predetermined period of time before leaving the restroom and sending this information to the central database;~~

~~if it is determined that the any person has not cleansed did not wash their hands within the predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room dispenser within the predetermined period of time, generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder and sending this information to the central database; and~~

if it is determined that the any person ~~[[has]]~~ did not ~~cleansed~~ wash their hands after the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder was generated, sending this information to the central database.

5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~step of generating~~ generates the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder ~~[[as]]~~ comprises at least one of an audio signal ~~[[or]]~~ and a visual signal.

6-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for improving hand hygiene compliance, increasing the frequency of handwashing comprising:

~~a central processor;~~

~~a receiver;~~

~~a communication link connecting the central processor and the receiver;~~

~~a first sensor located near the opening of a first area for determining motion through the opening~~ means for detecting, wherein the means for detecting is configured to detect each of:

whether any person entered a first area independent of whether the
any person includes means for communicating with the means for detecting; and

whether the any person left the first area and entered a second area independent of whether the any person includes means for communicating with the means for detecting;

~~a second sensor located inside the first area for determining movement within the first area;~~

~~a module located inside the first area for emitting audio and visual signals;~~

~~a third sensor located at an opening of a second area located adjacent to the first area for determining entry and exit from the second area;~~

~~a fourth sensor located inside the second area for determining toilet usage;~~

~~a fifth sensor located inside the second area for determining sink usage;~~

~~a sixth sensor located near the opening of the first area for determining cleanser dispenser usage; and~~

~~wherein the sensors communicate with the receiver via radio waves or hard wires and the module communicates with the central processor via AC or radio waves~~

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands before leaving the first area;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands in the second area after leaving the first area; and

means for generating at least one of a warning and a reminder when the any person does not wash their hands in the second area after leaving the first area without washing their hands in the first area.

10. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 9₁ wherein ~~the first sensor is~~ means for detecting comprises an IR beam breaker switch.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 9₁ wherein the at least one of the warning and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal and a visual signal ~~the audio signal is generated by a speaker.~~

13-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended): A system for ~~increasing handwashing~~ improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising:

~~a detecting unit for detecting a person entering a;~~

~~a monitoring unit for monitoring~~ means for determining whether any person flushes flushed at least one of a restroom toilet and a soil room waste dispenser;

~~a determining unit for determining whether~~ means for determining whether the any person flushes the toilet and cleanses washed their hands within a

~~predetermined period of time~~ within a predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser;

~~a generating unit~~ means for generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder when the any person flushes the toilet and does not wash their hands within the predetermined amount of time after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser ~~after the predetermined period of time has expired if the person has not cleansed their hands; and~~

~~a transmitting unit~~ means for transmitting to a central database information associated with whether or not the any person washed their hands after flushing the at least one of the restroom toilet and the soil room waste dispenser ~~has cleansed their hands within the predetermined period of time.~~

23. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 22, wherein the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder comprises at least one of an audio signal [and a visual signal ~~the generating unit generates the warning signal as at least one of an audio signal or a visual signal.~~

24-39. (Canceled).

40. (New): A method of improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising the steps of:

determining whether any person closed a door independent of whether the person includes a sensor, wherein the door divides a first area from a second area, the second area has at least one of a toilet and a waste dispenser located therein, and the any person closed the door after entering the second area from the first area;

determining whether the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser;

if the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser, determining whether the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area;

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands before opening the door to leave the second area, generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder and sending this information to the central database; and

if it is determined that the any person did not wash their hands after the at least one of the warning signal and the reminder was generated, sending this information to the central database.

41. (New): A system for improving hand hygiene compliance, comprising:

means for determining whether any person closed a door independent of whether the any person includes means for communicating with the means for determining whether the any person closed the door, wherein the door divides a first area from a second area, the second area has at least one of a toilet and a waste

dispenser located therein, and the any person closed the door after entering the second area from the first area;

means for determining whether the any person flushed the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser;

means for determining whether the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area;

means for generating at least one of a warning signal and a reminder when the any person flushes the at least one of the toilet and the waste dispenser and does not wash their hands before opening the door to leave the second area; and

means for transmitting to a central database information associated with whether or not the any person washed their hands before opening the door to leave the second area.